AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method comprising:

a step in which a processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section reads from a storage section an original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an original image [f] to which embedding is to be applied;

a step in which the processing section uses the modulus P, the order N, and the root α specified, to apply the number theoretic transform to the original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an embedding position (x', y') of a signature image in each block according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section reads from the storage section a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image to be embedded;

a step in which the processing section obtains an integer having the minimum absolute value and satisfying $F_{i,j}(x', y') + \delta = g_{i,j} \pmod{\varepsilon}$ as an embedding amount δ in each block from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x', y')$ of the original-image block at the embedding position, the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image, and embedding strength ε;

a step in which the processing section adds or subtracts the embedding amount δ to or from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block, based on (x, y) to obtain the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of an embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section applies inverse number theoretic transform to the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ to obtain the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ for each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain an embedding-applied image [h], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from an output section or an interface.

2. (previously presented) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method comprising:

a step in which a processing section reads from a storage section, an input section, or an interface an embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an embedding-applied image [h];

a step in which the processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section applies the number theoretic transform to the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an extraction position (x', y') corresponding to an embedding position of a signature image according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section obtains a remainder by dividing the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x', y')$ at the extraction position by embedding strength ε to extract a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image in each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain the signature image [g], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from a display section, an output section, or an interface.

3. (previously presented) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method comprising an embedding process for embedding a signature image into an original image and an extraction process for extracting the signature image,

wherein the embedding process comprises:

a step in which a processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section reads from a storage section an original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an original image [f] to which embedding is to be applied;

a step in which the processing section uses the modulus P, the order N, and the root α specified, to apply the number theoretic transform to the original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an embedding position (x', y') of a signature image in each block according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section reads from the storage section a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image to be embedded;

a step in which the processing section obtains an integer having the minimum absolute value and satisfying $F_{i,j}(x', y') + \delta = g_{i,j} \pmod{\varepsilon}$ as embedding amount δ in each block from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x', y')$ of the original-image block at the embedding position, the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image, and embedding strength ε;

a step in which the processing section adds or subtracts the embedding amount δ to or from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block, based on (x, y) to obtain the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of an embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section applies inverse number theoretic transform to the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ to obtain the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ for each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain an embedding-applied image [h], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from an output section or an interface,

and

the extraction process comprises:

a step in which the processing section reads from the storage section, the input section, or the interface an embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an embedding-applied image [h];

a step in which the processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section applies the number theoretic transform to the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an extraction position (x', y') corresponding to an embedding position of a signature image according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section obtains a remainder by dividing the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x', y')$ at the extraction position by embedding strength ε to extract a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image in each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain the signature image [g], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from a display section, the output section, or the interface.

4. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to Claim 1 ~~or 3~~, further comprising a step in which the processing section transmits the modulus P and the embedding-applied image [h], and, if necessary, the order N to an extraction-side apparatus through the output section or the interface.

5. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to Claim 2 ~~or 3~~, further comprising a step in which the processing section receives the modulus P, which is a parameter of the number theoretic transform, and the embedding-applied image [h], and, if necessary, the order N from a transmission-side apparatus.

6. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, further comprising a step in which the processing section obtains the original image [f] according to the embedding-applied image [h] and the signature image [g].

7. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein P is any compound number generated by a power of a prime number.

8. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein N is common to an embedding side and an extraction side of the signature image and stored in advance in the storage section, or is transferred from the embedding side to the extraction side.

9. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the processing section selects the order N among candidates of the order N, obtained by $N|GCD[(p_1 - 1), (p_2 - 1), ..., (p_m - 1)]$ according to a predetermined priority.

10. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the processing section calculates the root α uniquely determined according to a predetermined expression of the Chinese remainder theorem or others, based on the modulus P and the order N specified.

11. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein

the processing section specifies P expressed by $P = p_1^{r1}p_2^{r2}...p_m^{rm}$, where p_i is a prime number and r_i is a positive integer;

the processing section selects the order N among positive integers satisfying $N|GCD[(p_1 - 1), (p_2 - 1), ..., (p_m - 1)]$, or reads the order N from the storage section;

the processing section calculates a root $\alpha_{1,i}$ of the order N with respect to the modulus p_i;

the processing section obtains a root $\alpha_{2,i}$ of the order N with respect to the modulus p_i^{ri} from $\alpha_{1,i}$; and

the processing section obtains the root α of the order N with respect to the modulus P from $\alpha_{2,i}$ according to the Chinese remainder theorem.

12. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the processing section uses P, N, and α to execute the number theoretic transform between x(n) and X(k) by the following expressions,

$$X(k) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x(n)\alpha^{kn} \pmod{P} \quad (1)$$

$$x(n) = N^{-1} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X(k)\alpha^{-kn} \pmod{P} \quad (2)$$

wherein P is any compound number generated by a power of a prime number, α is a positive integer, N is the minimum positive integer satisfying $\alpha^N = 1 \pmod{P}$,

$X = [T]x$

$x = [T]^{-1}X$

[T] is a transformation matrix, and $[T]^{-1}$ is an inverse transformation matrix.

13. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the randomizing function uses the value of the modulus P and/or a pixel value in an adjacent block or a pixel value in a predetermined block which is not changed by an embedding process, as a parameter, and determines the position uniquely.

14. (currently amended) An unauthorized-alteration detecting method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the randomizing function is specified by the following expressions.

$$x' = r_{x'}(P, i, j, f_{i,l}(0,0)) \quad (10)$$

$$y' = r_{y'}(P, i, j, f_{i,l}(0,0)) \quad (11)$$

$$l = j - 1 \pmod{L} \quad (12)$$

15. (previously presented) An unauthorized-alteration detecting program for making a computer execute each of the following steps, the following steps including:

a step in which a processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section reads from a storage section an original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an original image [f] to which embedding is to be applied;

a step in which the processing section uses the modulus P, the order N, and the root α specified, to apply the number theoretic transform to the original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an embedding position (x', y') of a signature image in each block according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section reads from the storage section a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image to be embedded;

a step in which the processing section obtains integer having the minimum absolute value and satisfying $F_{i,j}(x', y') + \delta = g_{i,j} \pmod{\varepsilon}$ as an embedding amount δ in each block from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x', y')$ of the original-image block at the embedding position, the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image, and embedding strength ε;

a step in which the processing section adds or subtracts the embedding amount δ to or from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block, based on (x, y) to obtain the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of an embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section applies inverse number theoretic transform to the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ to obtain the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ for each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain an embedding-applied image [h], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from an output section or an interface.

16. (previously presented) An unauthorized-alteration detecting program for making a computer execute each of the following steps, the following steps including:

a step in which a processing section reads from a storage section, an input section, or an interface an embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an embedding-applied image [h];

a step in which the processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section applies the number theoretic transform to the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an extraction position (x', y') corresponding to an embedding position of a signature image according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section obtains a remainder by dividing the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x', y')$ at the extraction position by embedding strength ε to extract a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image in each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain the signature image [g], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from a display section, an output section, or an interface.

17. (previously presented) An unauthorized-alteration detecting program for making a computer execute an embedding process for embedding a signature image into an original image and an extraction process for extracting the signature image,

wherein the embedding process comprises:

a step in which a processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section reads from a storage section an original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an original image [f] to which embedding is to be applied;

a step in which the processing section uses the modulus P, the order N, and the root α specified, to apply the number theoretic transform to the original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an embedding position (x', y') of a signature image in each block according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section reads from the storage section a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image to be embedded;

a step in which the processing section obtains an integer having the minimum absolute value and satisfying $F_{i,j}(x', y') + \delta = g_{i,j} \pmod{\varepsilon}$ as embedding amount δ in each block from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x', y')$ of the original-image block at the embedding position, the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image, and embedding strength ε;

a step in which the processing section adds or subtracts the embedding amount δ to or from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block, based on (x, y) to obtain the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of an embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section applies inverse number theoretic transform to the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ to obtain the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ for each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain an embedding-applied image [h], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from an output section or an interface,

and

the extraction process comprises:

a step in which the processing section reads from the storage section, the input section, or the interface an embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an embedding-applied image [h];

a step in which the processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section applies the number theoretic transform to the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an extraction position (x', y') corresponding to an embedding position of a signature image according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section obtains a remainder by dividing the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x', y')$ at the extraction position by embedding strength ε to extract a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image in each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain the signature image [g], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from a display section, the output section, or the interface.

18. (previously presented) A recording medium having recorded an unauthorized-alteration detecting program for making a computer execute each of the following steps, the following steps including:

a step in which a processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section reads from a storage section an original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an original image [f] to which embedding is to be applied;

a step in which the processing section uses the modulus P, the order N, and the root α specified, to apply the number theoretic transform to the original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an embedding position (x', y') of a signature image in each block according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section reads from the storage section a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image to be embedded;

a step in which the processing section obtains an integer having the minimum absolute value and satisfying $F_{i,j}(x', y') + \delta = g_{i,j} \pmod{\varepsilon}$ as embedding amount δ in each block from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x', y')$ of the original-image block at the embedding position, the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image, and embedding strength ε;

a step in which the processing section adds or subtracts the embedding amount δ to or from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block, based on (x, y) to obtain the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of an embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section applies inverse number theoretic transform to the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ to obtain the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ for each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain an embedding-applied image [h], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from an output section or an interface.

19. (previously presented) A recording medium having recorded an unauthorized-alteration detecting program for making a computer execute each of the following steps, the following steps including:

a step in which a processing section reads from a storage section, an input section, or an interface an embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an embedding-applied image [h];

a step in which the processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section applies the number theoretic transform to the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an extraction position (x', y') corresponding to an embedding position of a signature image according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section obtains a remainder by dividing the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x', y')$ at the extraction position by embedding strength ε to extract a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image in each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain the signature image [g], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from a display section, an output section, or an interface.

20. (previously presented) A recording medium having recorded an unauthorized-alteration detecting program for making a computer execute an embedding process for embedding a signature image into an original image and an extraction process for extracting the signature image,

wherein the embedding process comprises:

a step in which a processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section reads from a storage section an original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an original image [f] to which embedding is to be applied;

a step in which the processing section uses the modulus P, the order N, and the root α specified, to apply the number theoretic transform to the original-image block $f_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an embedding position (x', y') of a signature image in each block according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section reads from the storage section a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image to be embedded;

a step in which the processing section obtains an integer having the minimum absolute value and satisfying $F_{i,j}(x', y') + \delta = g_{i,j} \pmod{\varepsilon}$ as embedding amount δ in each block from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x', y')$ of the original-image block at the embedding position, the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image, and embedding strength ε;

a step in which the processing section adds or subtracts the embedding amount δ to or from the number-theoretic-transformed block $F_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the original-image block, based on (x, y) to obtain the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of an embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section applies inverse number theoretic transform to the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ to obtain the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ for each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain an embedding-applied image [h], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from an output section or an interface,

and

the extraction process comprises:

a step in which the processing section reads from the storage section, the input section, or the interface an embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ obtained by block-dividing an embedding-applied image [h];

a step in which the processing section specifies a modulus P, an order N which is an even number equal to or larger than 2, and a root α, which are parameters of number theoretic transform;

a step in which the processing section applies the number theoretic transform to the embedding-applied-image block $h_{i,j}(x, y)$ to calculate the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x, y)$ of the embedding-applied-image block;

a step in which the processing section determines an extraction position (x', y') corresponding to an embedding position of a signature image according to a predetermined randomizing function which uses information of a left adjacent block, a right adjacent block, or a surrounding predetermined block as a parameter;

a step in which the processing section obtains a remainder by dividing the number-theoretic-transformed block $H_{i,j}(x', y')$ at the extraction position by embedding strength ε to extract a pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image; and

a step in which the processing section obtains the pixel value $g_{i,j}$ of the signature image in each of all (i, j) blocks to obtain the signature image [g], and stores it in the storage section and/or outputs it from a display section, the output section, or the interface.